

Weekly Update October 12, 2021

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau announced that Peter Leavitt, a former moderator of 19 years, passed away and the services will be held on Friday at 10:00 AM.

Upcoming Events

Fall for Scituate in North Scituate will be held October 24th from 12:00 – 4:00 PM in the North Scituate parking lot.

Special Town Meeting will be held on October 26th at 7:00 PM in the Scituate High School gymnasium. He encourages everyone to attend.

On October 30, 2021 from 2:00 – 5:00 PM, there will be a *Howl-oween* fundraiser which is a costume contest for dogs at the Scituate Dog Park.

Halloween in the Harbor will be on October 31st from 4:00– 5:30 from Brook St. to Allen Place.

Water Main Construction

The contractor will be coming back to Old Oaken Bucket on Wednesday and Thursday to make repairs to the pavement and trench. It doesn't look the entire road will be repaved until the spring.

The contractor is on Brook St. today and finished installation Studley Royal last week. A new installation will begin on Foam Rd. today.

Total average demand for the past week was 1.130 mgpd, down again from last week. Manganese levels in the reservoir continue to drop, but are still high enough to cause discolored water. We will continue to monitor usage and, when we feel it necessary, move to the next phase of our water ban, which is a prohibition on outside water use.

The reservoir was +.25" yesterday and at +3.5" at Tack Factory. Rainfall over the last 5 days was at 1.74" inches.

The equipment to conduct the pilot studies for the new treatment plant to determine the most effective treatment methods for the new plant has arrived and been installed at the water treatment plant property. The pilot program will continue this week.

Covid Update

The total for this past week 16, down from the 19 of the previous week. We have a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 1.62%, up slightly from the 1.16% of last week. Plymouth County is down to 3.18%, down very slightly from 3.25%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 1.80%, which is down from the 1.96% of last week. Numbers seem to be holding fairly steady the last couple of weeks, with slight increases and decreases week to week.

New guidance is out from the CDC and federal government on the booster shots for Pfizer recipients. Go to Mass.gov and there is a link to determine if you are eligible for a booster shot. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson will be before the FDA this week seeking approval for their booster shots. If the FDA approves, the CDC will begin their review next week, with approval by the end of the month.

Please if you have not been vaccinated, consult with your physician and get vaccinated if that is right for you. As we are seeing, vaccinated individuals who get COVID are far less likely to be ill, end up in the hospital or have a fatal case of COVID. Pfizer has received approval for use by the FDA, removing its emergency designation.

Additional Project Updates from the Town Administrator

Work is continuing on paving on First Parish Road and surrounding the common. The road has been milled, and the contractor has put down the base and the sidewalk is complete.

Renovations on the Steverman rink at Scituate High School are substantially complete. The painting and lines are down and we are at punch list items. A ribbon cutting should be scheduled shortly. It looks fantastic.

Well 17A green sand filter is progressing. We are moving into the testing and training phases for the new equipment. Scheduled completion is Fall of 2021. Re-activation of this well brings approximately 225,000 – 250,000 gallons a day back into the system.

Renovations/expansion to the Widow's Walk clubhouse continue. The \$2.5 million project is expected to be completed in the fall. The walls and roof are up on the new building foot print, so you can see what the size of the new building will be. Work is continuing on the interior. Dry wall is up, rough plumbing and electrical is mostly completed. The contractor will be continuing work on the interior and starting painting.

Humarock Fire station the living quarters are completely framed in and most of the windows have been installed with rough electric and plumbing finishing this week. The apparatus bay is all framed with the roof up, with window and door installation this week.

Cedar Point-The contractor continues to install some needed drainage at Cedar Point and to begin raising the structures in the road in preparation paving. The base coat has been installed throughout the project area, with the top coat installed in portions of the project. Those areas without a top coat still need some additional drainage installed. In addition, we will be rehabbing the island at the entrance to Cedar Point. The island took a beating during the construction and needs repairs. The curbing has been installed and final paving will be scheduled when the drainage is completed.

Finally, but not least of all, I am happy to announce again that the Coast Guard Station in Scituate will remain open. I want to thank our Congressional delegation, Congressman Lynch and Congressman Keating, Senator Markey and Senator Warren, our local legislative delegation

of Senator O'Connor, Reps Kearney and Meschino and all the local officials who rallied to make sure that the station remains open and a vital part of our emergency response on the water. If you are down the harbor you will see that the station is currently closed, but this is the annual closing of the station and they will be returning in the spring.

Update from Superintendent Burkhead

There were 4 new Covid cases this past week, down from 7 the previous week.

Supt. Burkhead will be holding "Seaside Chats" which are forums open to the community. The first one is on October 14th at 1 PM and 6 PM at the Senior Center.

He noted that we are in phase I of the eligibility period for the MSBA school project for Hatherly School. He will answer any questions that people have on this project at this week's Seaside Chat that will be on the upcoming Special Town Meeting.

Transportation update: There is a shortage of bus drivers across the state and country. We do have routes covered but do not have any substitute drivers. He appreciates every one's patience. We have hired two new drivers who are working on their licenses and hope to have them available in the next two weeks.

At the last School Committee Meeting the Superintendent's goals were approved and are up on the website as well as curriculum updates, and the Safe and Strong Covid plan. All can be found on scituate.k12.ma.us.

Supt. Burkhead highlighted the Scituate Engagement Academy which will help all students accelerate their learning. It will focus on helping each student develop the best version of themselves and will be available to all students in the near future. Stay tuned for the announcement.

Sailor shout out to our entire community as we've been dealing with the Covid battle over the past 18+ months. Another example of resilience was observed last week as he traveled with our Boston Metco students. They travel a long way every day and often travel up to an hour and 30 minutes each day. He traveled with those students and had a memorable trip with them. He thanked the students and their families. Thank you to all of them along with Ms. Crawford, Mr. Pierre, and Miss Gee.